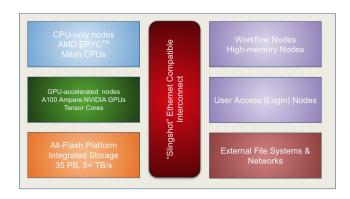




- HPE Cray System with 4x capability of Cori
- GPU-accelerated (GPU/CPU) and CPU-only nodes
- HPE Cray Slingshot high-performance network
- All-Flash filesystem



Phase I: Arrived Spring 2021

- 1,536 GPU-accelerated nodes
- 1 AMD "Milan" CPU + 4 NVIDIA A100 GPUs per node
- 256 GB CPU memory and 40 GB GPU high BW memory
- 35 PB FLASH scratch file system
- User access and system management nodes

Phase II Addition - arrives last Winter

- 3,072 CPU only nodes
- 2 AMD "Milan" CPUs per node
- 512 GB memory per node
- Upgraded high speed network
- CPU partition will match or exceed performance of entire Cori system







Perlmutter at a glance

35 PB All Flash File System

1536 NVIDIA A100 GPU Nodes

4x GPU + 1x CPU 160 GiB HBM + DDR 4x 200G "Slingshot" NICs

AMD EPYC 7003 CPU Node

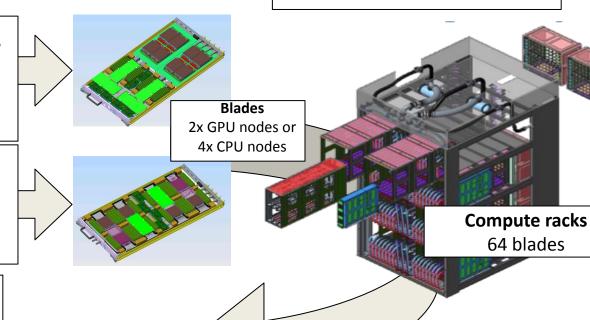
2x CPUs > 256 GiB DDR4 1x 200G "Slingshot" NIC

Centers of Excellence

Network Storage App. Readiness System SW

Perlmutter system

12 GPU racks 12 CPU racks ~6 MW



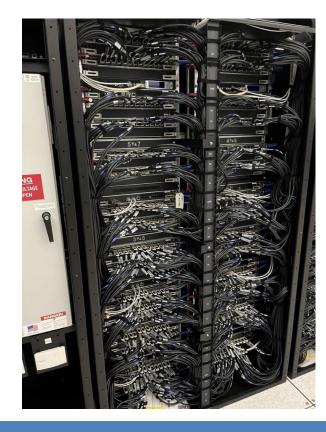


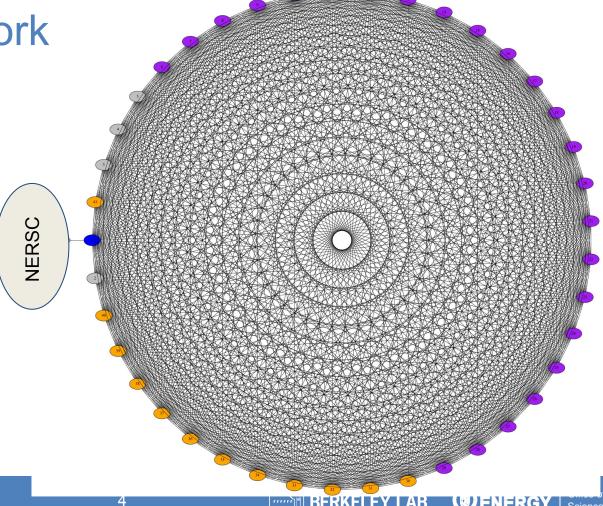






Slingshot Network









New, Non-Compute Functionality

- Direct network connectivity from NERSC network to System High Speed Network
- Quota is enforced by the file system instead of the batch system
 - 20TB "soft" quota, 30TB "hard" quota, grace period 24 hours
- "Native" GPFS Clients on Computes
- Lmod: a more sophisticated program for handling modules
- Crontabs replaced with "scrontab"
 - Same functionality, but scheduled via the batch system
- Dynamic linking by default to avoid needing to recompile every time the system is updated
- Kubernetes-based control plane enhances system manageability, reliability, and provides API-based interactions
 - o In the future, will expand user-interaction options
- Rolling reboots to minimize user disruption







Why Phases?

- Technology delays in system components
- Went with a phased delivery to maximize the availability of Perlmutter resources to users
- Phase I: GPU nodes, SSD Lustre, Slingshot10 (Cray Network / Mellanox NIC)
- Phase II: CPU nodes, Rebuild GPU Nodes, Slingshot11 (Cray Network / Cray NIC)







Deployment Timeline

- December, 2020: Filesystem Delivery
- February, 2021: GPU Cabinet Delivery
- May, 2021: Perlmutter dedication ceremony
- July 16, 2021: first users on Perlmutter
- July October, 2021 : Initial users added in waves (NESAP, ECP, SF)
- February April, 2022: GPU nodes cycled out for cleaning

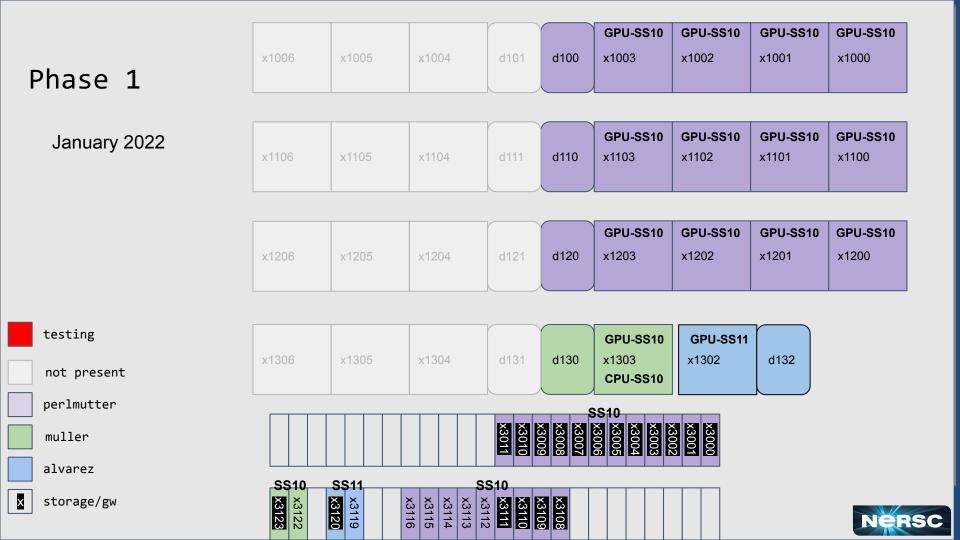


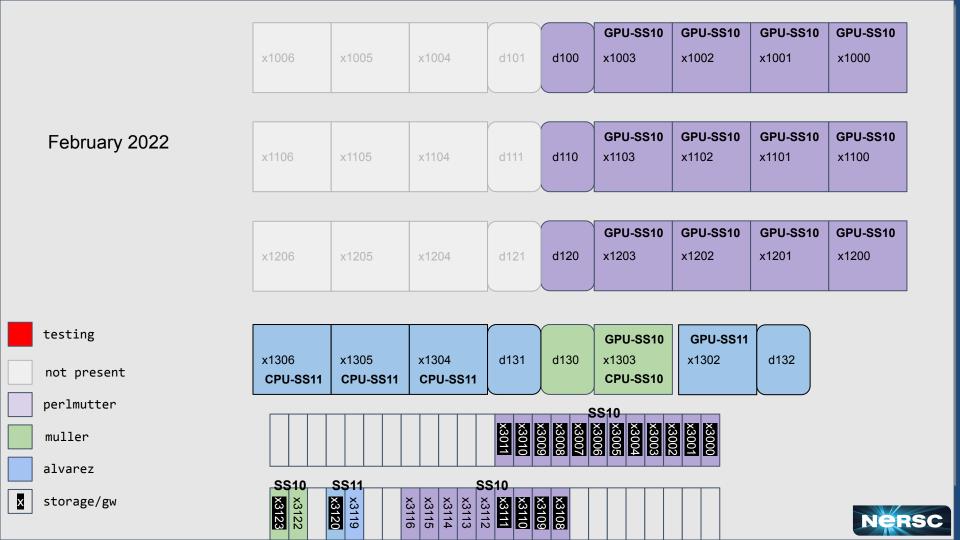












Test Systems Keep Things Stable for Users

- NERSC has deployed two test systems for Perlmutter
 - Muller: pre-production, test new software and system configurations
 - Alvarez: test far-field changes that require a lot of development
- A major question before phase 2 integration was "Can SS10 and SS11 co-exist?"
 - Needed new procedures for managing hybrid system (no manual covers this because NERSC created it)
 - Hoes lustre perform with TCP/IP communication (RDMA wasn't possible between SS10 and SS11)?
 - Does the system function at all this way?!?
- Added SS10 GPU and SS11 CPU cabinets to Alvarez
 - Gave systems group a platform to set up configuration without disrupting Perlmutter
 - Early user testing to ensure that SS11 will work and can co-exist with SS10
 - Thanks to all the users who helped with testing!







Deployment Timeline Con't

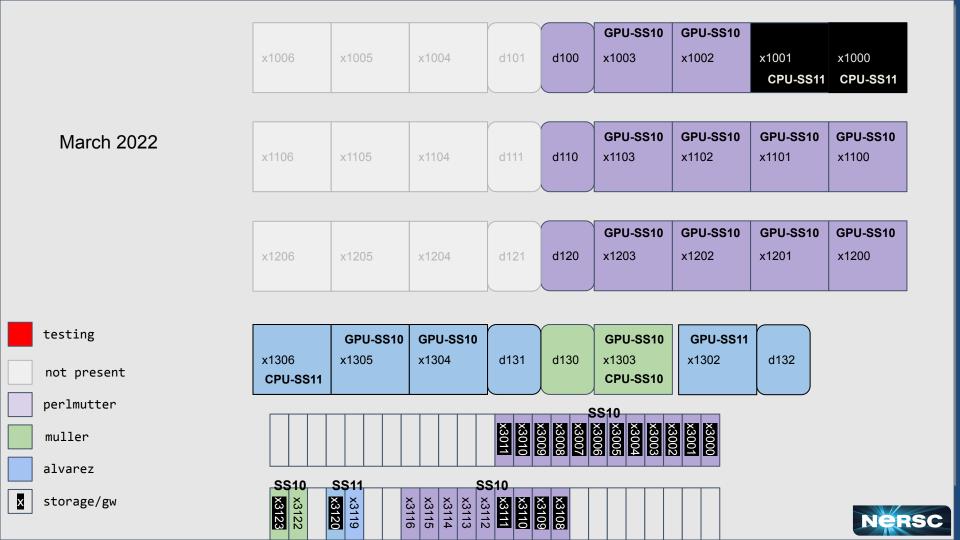
- February May, 2022: CPU cabinets delivered
- May 11, 2022: First CPU nodes opened to users
- May 17, 2022: All NERSC users added to Perlmutter
- June October, 2022: remanufacturing

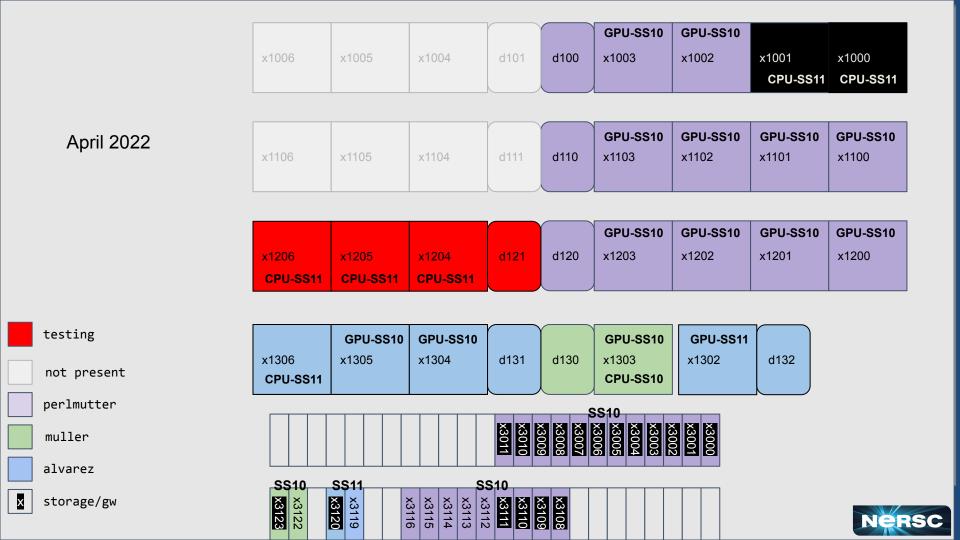


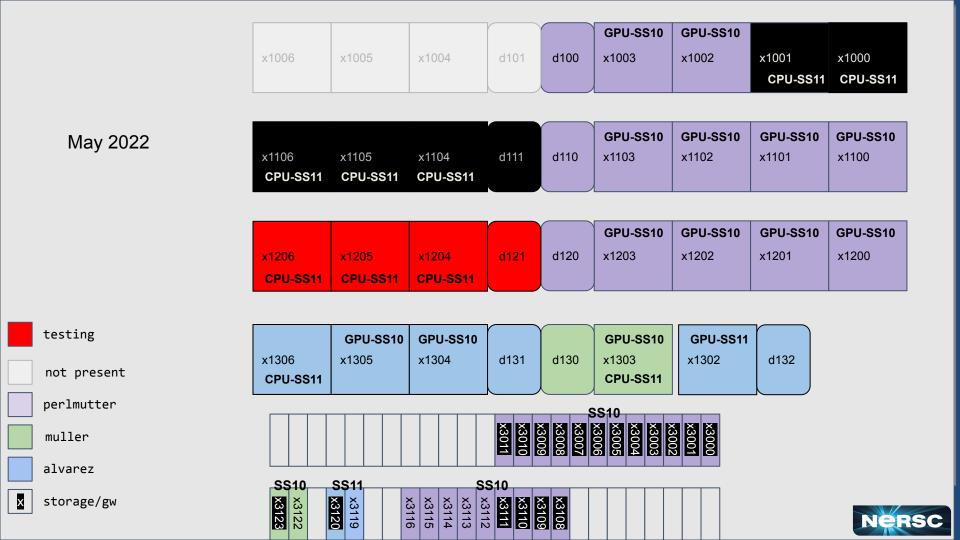


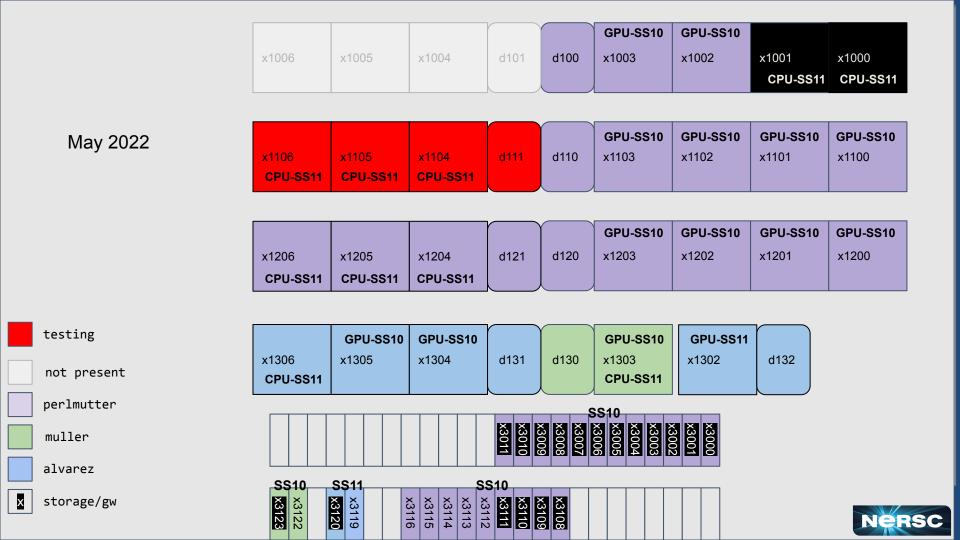


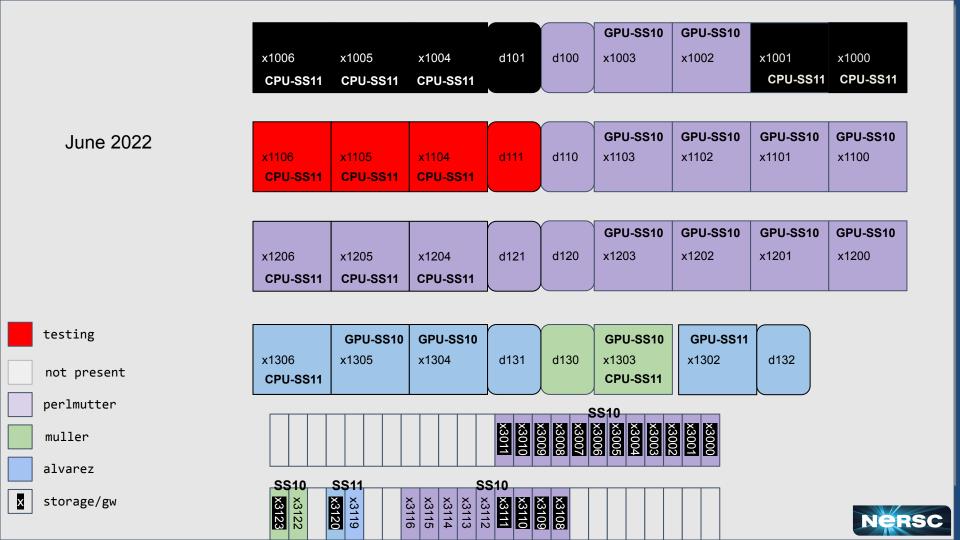


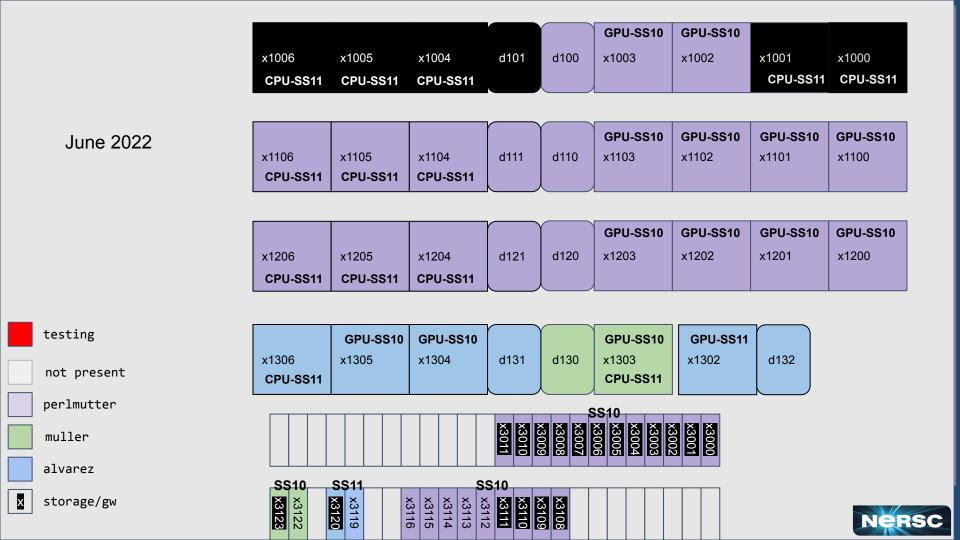


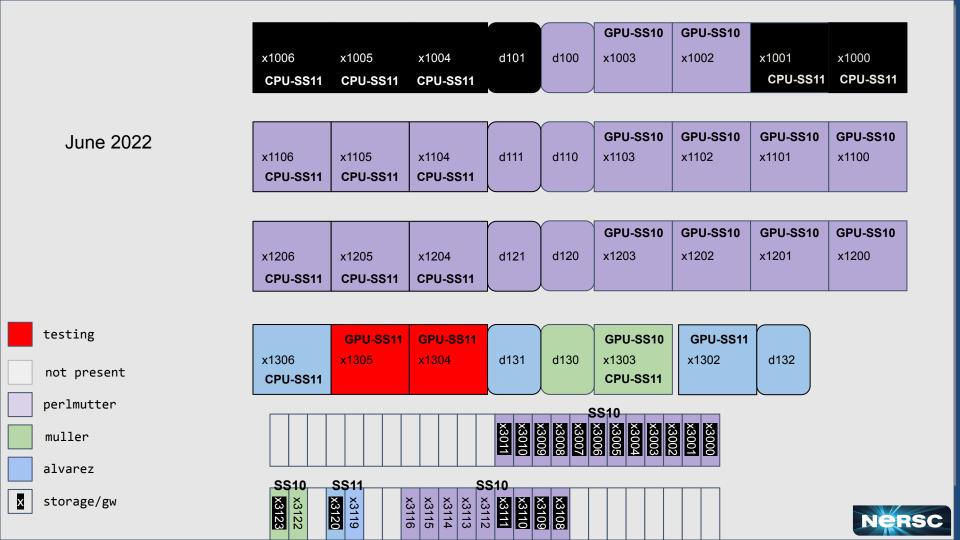












Rebuilding a Supercomputer

- The Slingshot 11 NIC was delayed, system was delivered with Slingshot 10
- To get to phase II, each GPU node had to be physically upgraded to the hardware configuration needed for Slingshot 11, along with a major software upgrade to fully utilize the new hardware
- The remanufacturing was done over a period of five months by a team of HPE experts
 - 788 Blades
 - 300 Storage Servers
 - 48 Login Nodes
 - 28 I/O Gateways
 - 36 Mgmt Servers

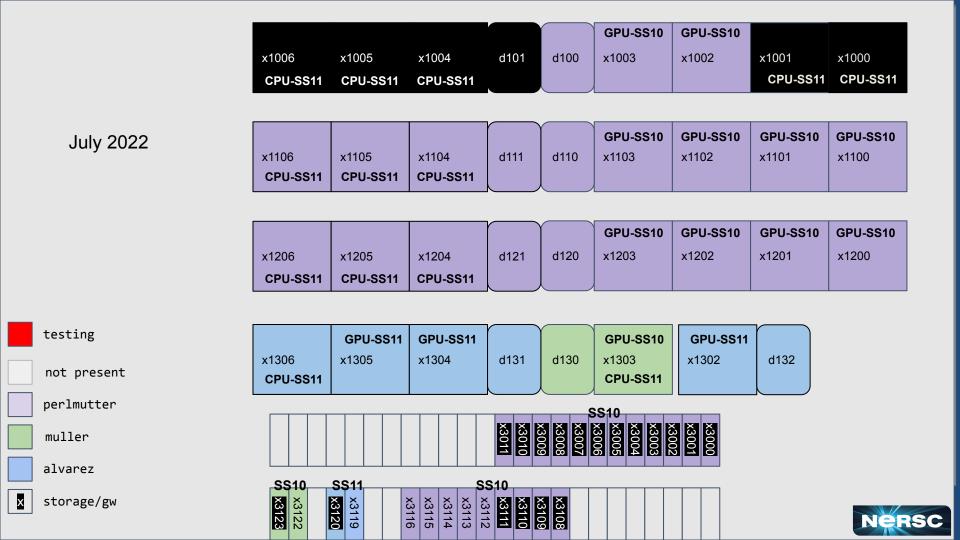


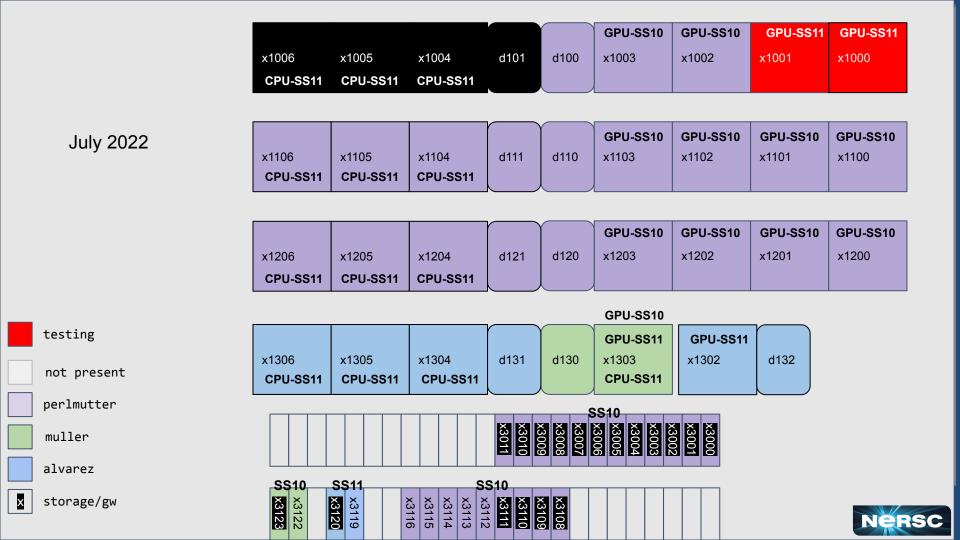


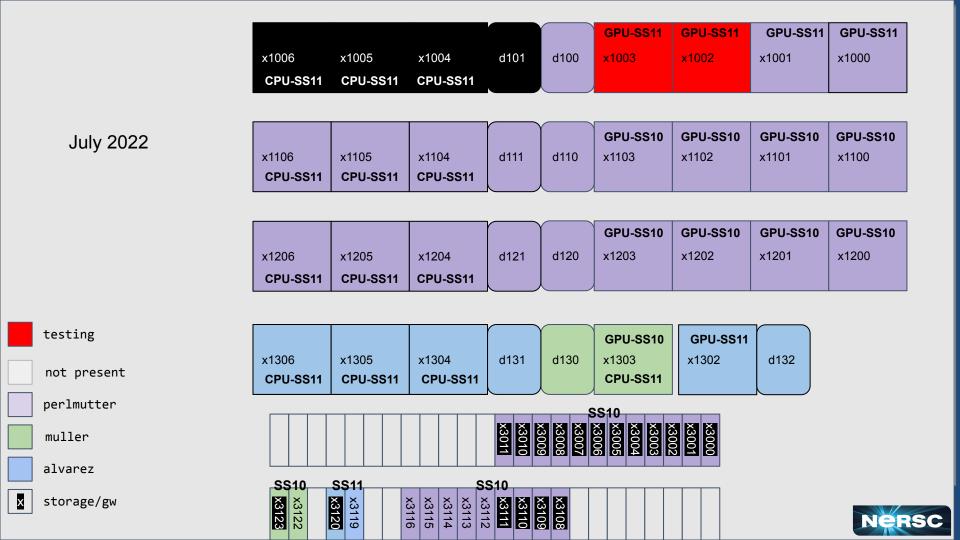


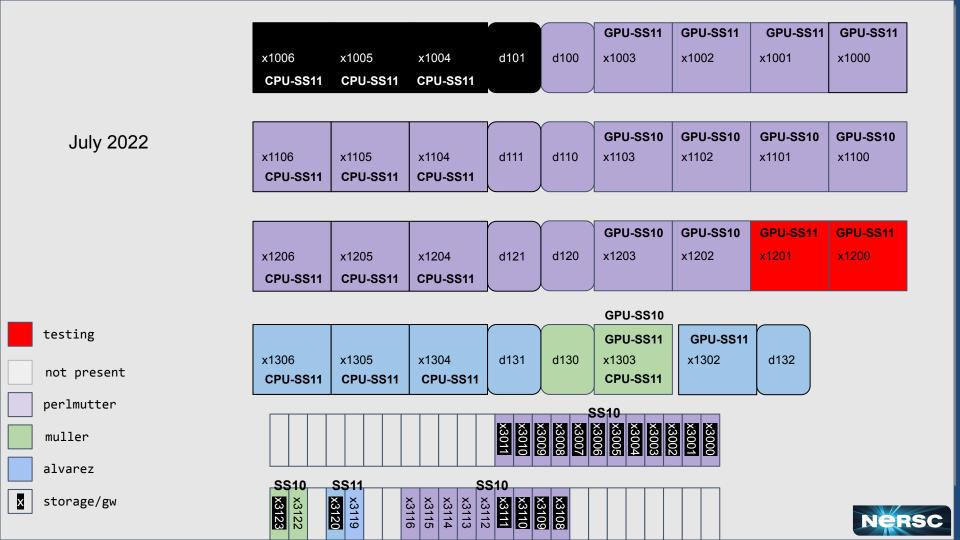


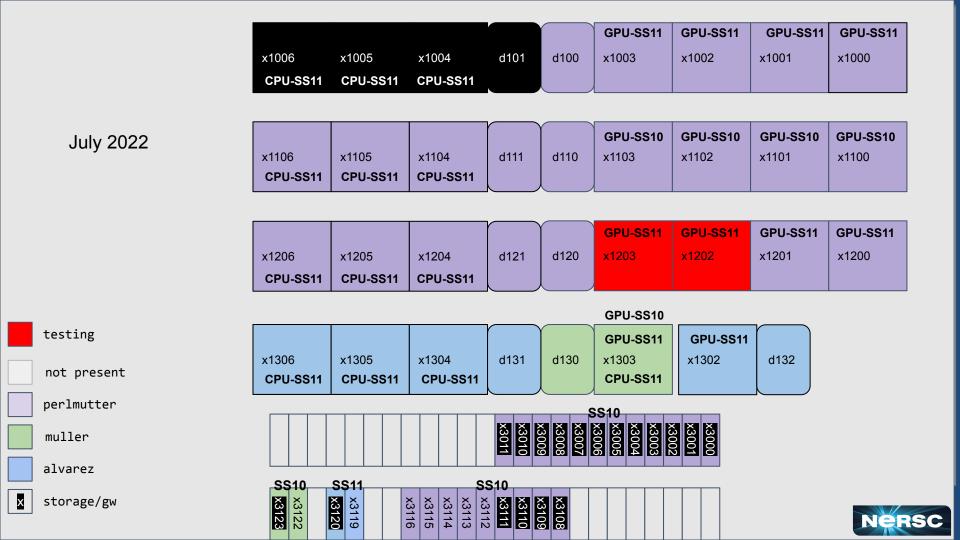


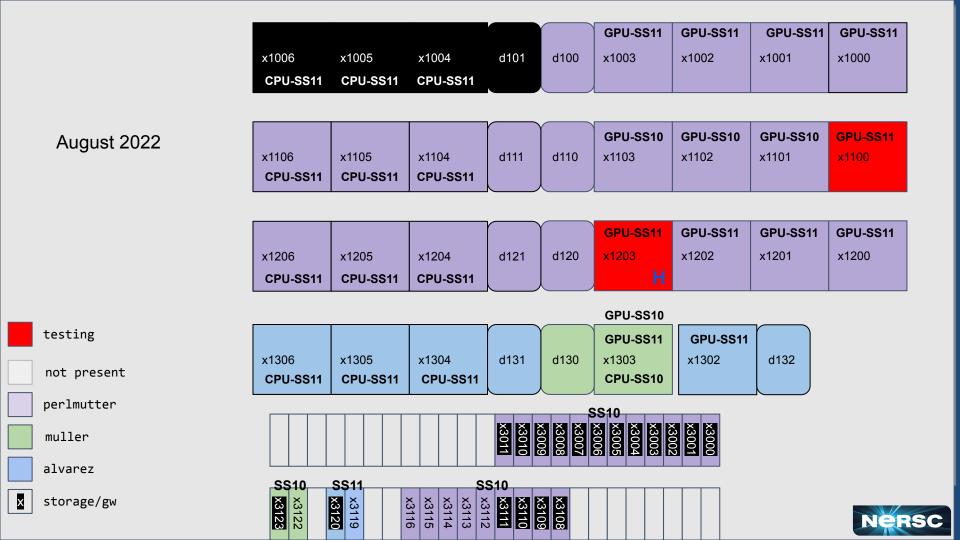


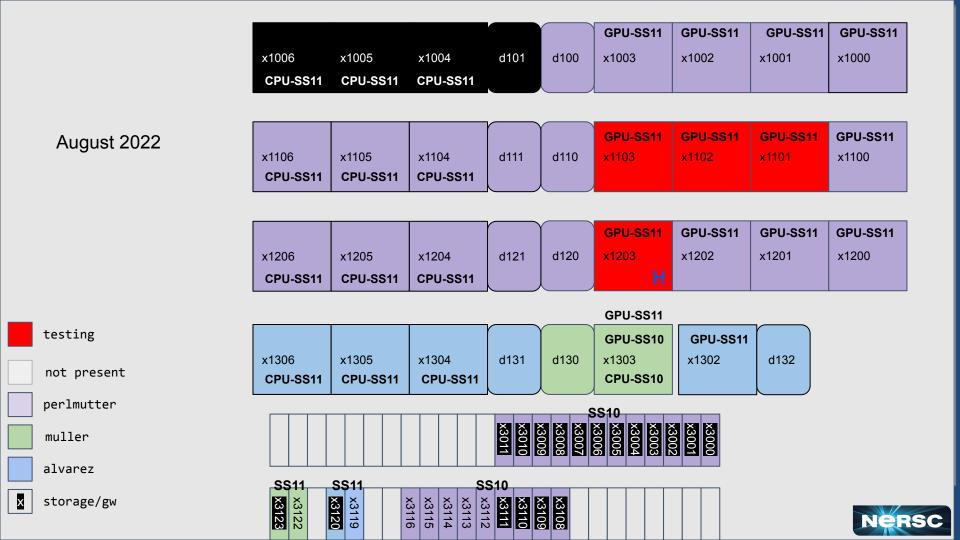


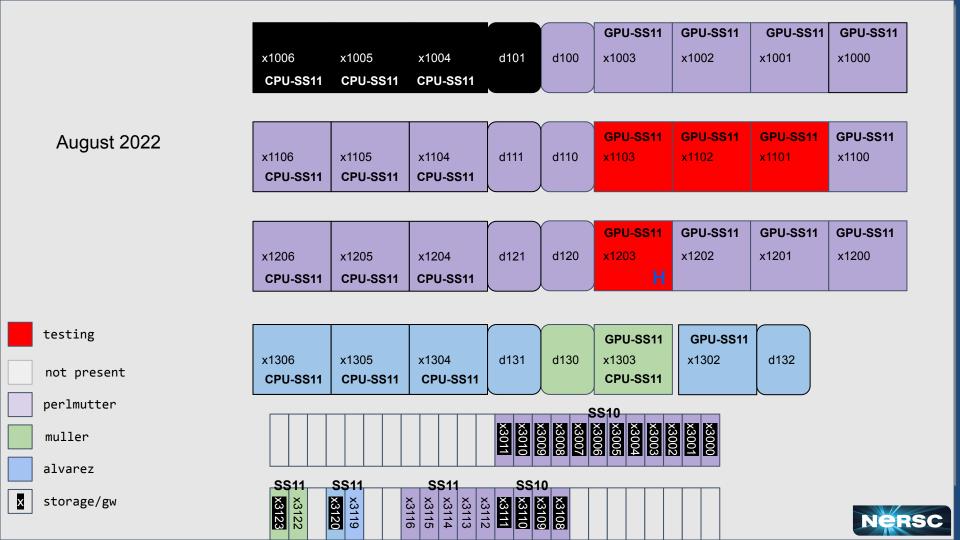


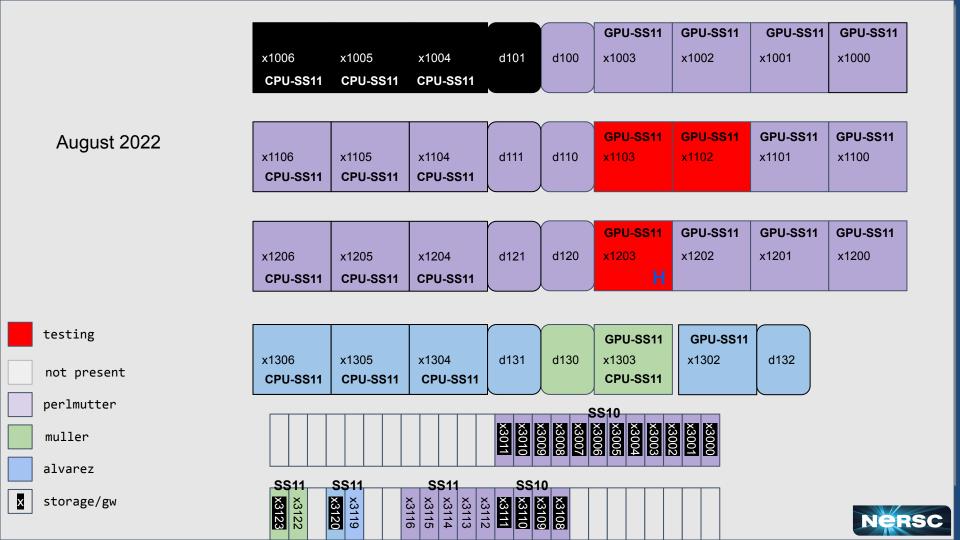












Deployment Timeline Con't

- July 11, 2022: First SS11 GPU nodes opened to users
- August 15, 2022: All SS10 GPU nodes are removed from the system
- August 15 August 23 September 15, 2022: All Lustre Servers upgraded from SS10 to SS11
- October 11, 2022 (now): Remanufacturing finished, I/O network protocol changed to the final phase II configuration (kflind), lustre upgraded to 2.15

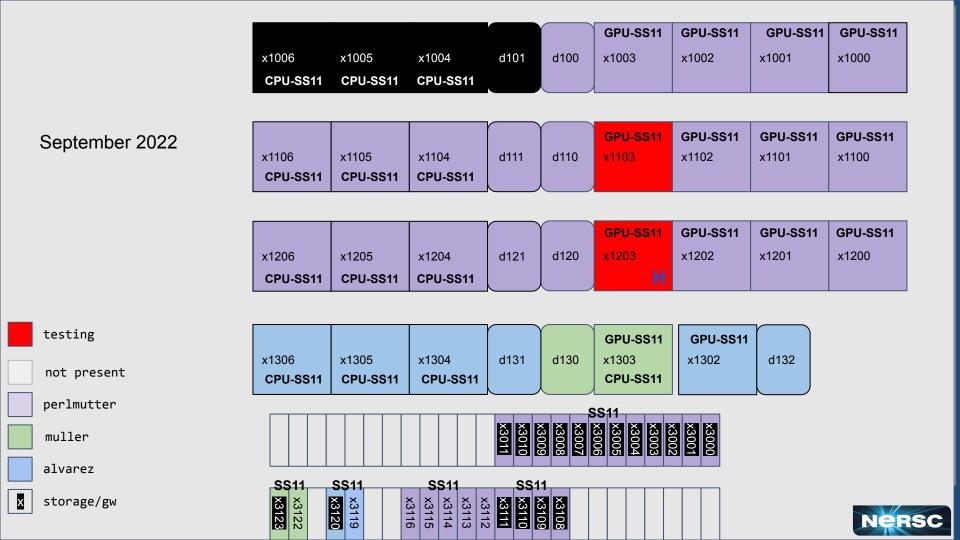


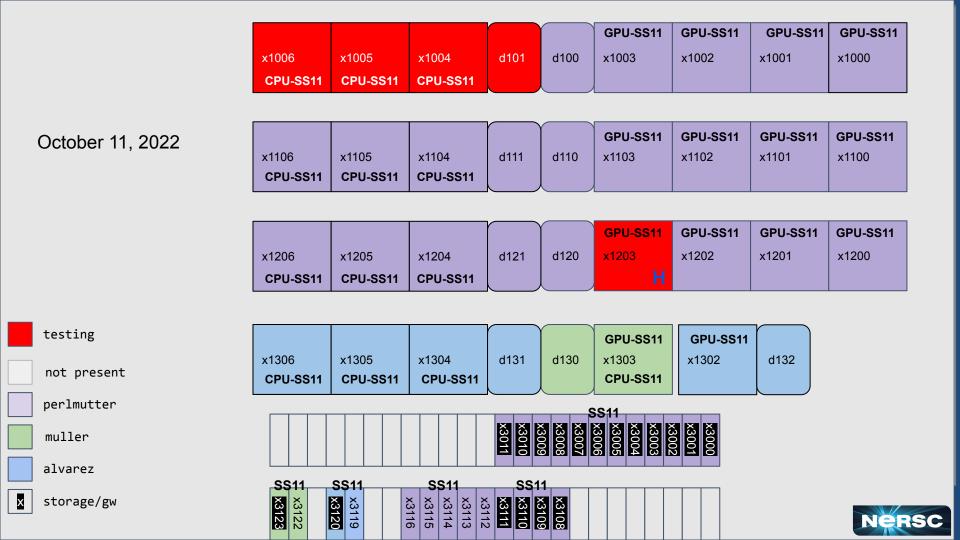












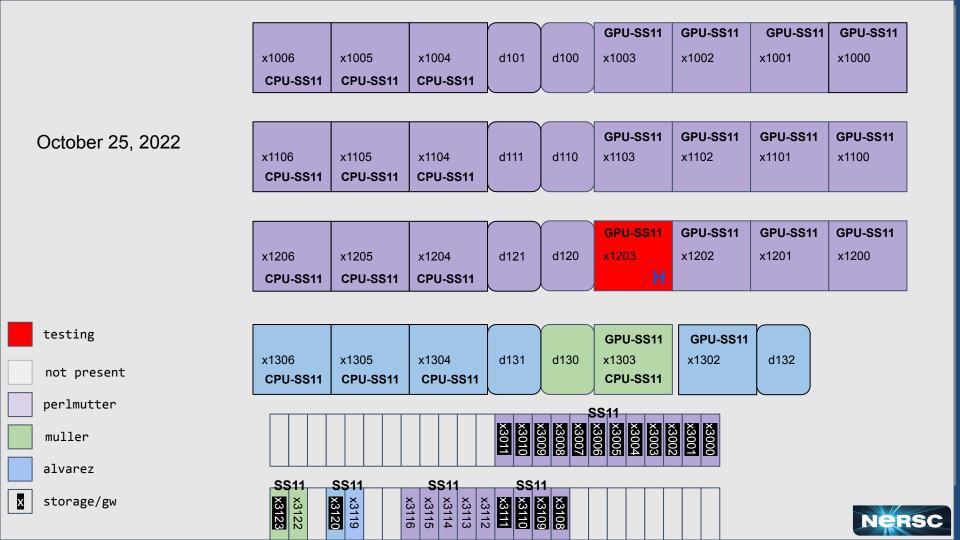
Upcoming Changes (Near Term)

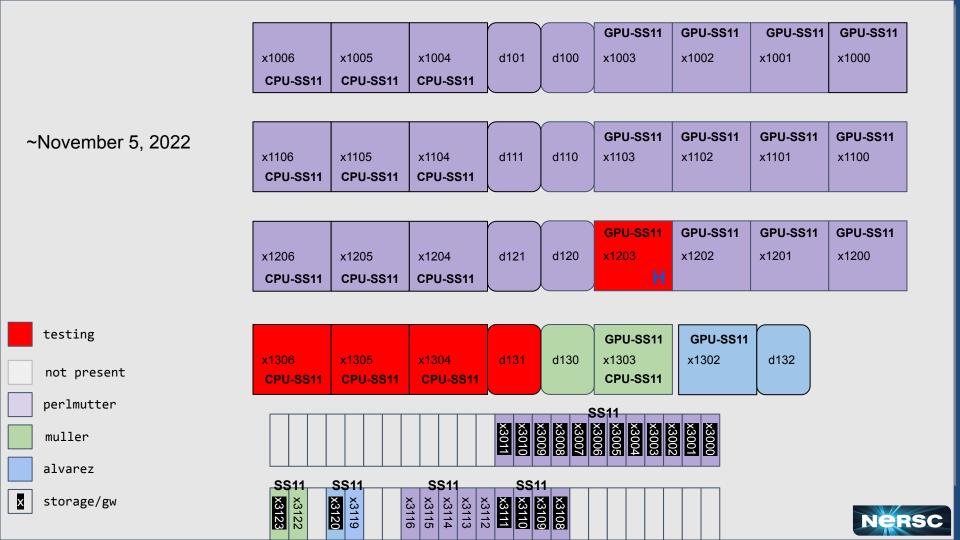
- Repair work A lot of remanufacturing dust is beginning to settle
- Three more CPU racks (October 25, 2022)
- All login and GPU compute node repairs completed (est November, 2022)
- Fully Upgraded Software Stack (November, 2022)
 - Slingshot software upgrade to v2.0
 - Resolves many system stability and performance issues
 - SLES 15sp4 / cos 2.4
 - Major kernel update allowing multiple jobs/GPU node (new code + cgroupv2)
 - Updated NVIDIA driver/cuda
- Three more CPU racks (again) (November, 2022)
- Tuning to improve performance and stability
- Final acceptance (several interruptions for full system testing)
 - Acceptance-related disruptions primarily in December and January (estimated)

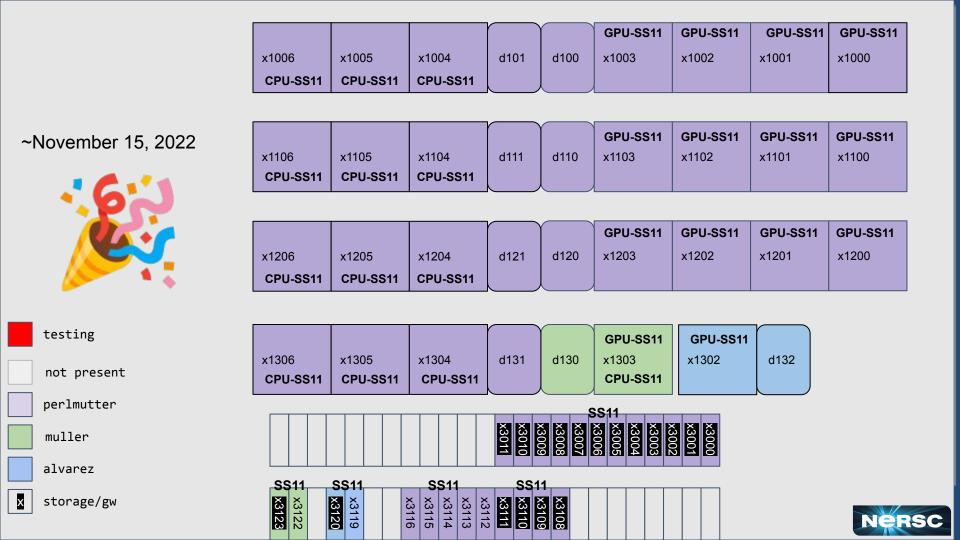












Upcoming Changes (Long Term)

- Continuous Operations
 - Expect most maintenances / software updates to be done non-disruptively
 - Changes to network and Lustre are the key limiting factors right now
- User Access Instance (UAIs)
 - Each user logs in directly to a dedicated container
 - Will minimize user collisions ("The login node is slow")
 - NERSC will provide standard images, but user customized images could also be used
 - Also capability for long-running k8s managed user services
 - Earliest likely user availability in Q2 or Q3 2023
- API-driven interactions
 - RESTful interface to Slurm
 - Start/manage/maintain gitlab runners
 - Data movement operations







So many acknowledgments

- Everybody at NERSC, but especially:
 - Computational Systems Group
 - N9 User Integration Team
 - N9 Project Management Team
 - Early User Testers
- HPE/Cray
 - Site Support Team
 - Extended-on-site Installation Team
 - N9 Project Management Team
 - HPE/Cray Engineers on Slack and Zoom
 - Cray EX Leadership Team (Hardware and Software)









Thank You



